

## § 1918.36

Any portable stanchions or uprights used shall be so supported or secured as to prevent accidental dislodgement; *Provided, however,* That the requirements of this section shall not be deemed to apply to barges or to Great Lakes type bulk carriers.

### § 1918.36 Weather deck rails.

Removable weather deck rails shall be kept in place except when cargo operations require them to be removed, in which case they shall be replaced as soon as such cargo operations are completed.

### § 1918.37 Barges.

(a) Employees shall not be permitted to walk along the sides of covered lighters or of barges with coamings more than 5 feet high unless there is a 3-foot clear walkway or a grab rail or taut handline is provided.

(b) Employees shall not be permitted to walk or work on the decks of barges to be loaded unless and until the walking or working surfaces have been determined by visual inspection to be sound structurally and maintained properly. If in the course of discharging a barge an unsound deck surface is discovered, work shall be discontinued and shall not be resumed until temporary means to ensure a safe work surface, or to avoid the unsound surface, shall have been taken.

### § 1918.38 Freshly oiled decks.

If decks are wet with fresh paint or oil, the employer shall not permit employees to engage in longshoring operations until necessary walking and working areas have been made safe by the use of suitable non-skid materials.

## Subpart E—Opening and Closing Hatches

### § 1918.41 Coaming clearances.

(a) *Weather deck.* If a deck load of lumber or other smooth sided deck cargo over 5 feet high is stowed within 3 feet of the hatch coaming and employees handling beams and hatch covers are not protected by at least a 24-inch height of the coaming, a taut handline shall be provided along the side of the deckload for their protec-

## 29 CFR Ch. XVII (7–1–97 Edition)

tion. The requirements of § 1918.35(a) are not intended to apply in this situation.

(b) *Intermediate deck.* (1) Before intermediate deck hatch covers and beams are removed or replaced by employees, there shall be a 3-foot working space between the stowed cargo and the coaming at both sides and at one end of the hatches with athwartship beams, and at both ends of those hatches with fore and aft beams, except that a reasonable tolerance will be permitted in circumstances where adherence to a 3-foot working space would create undue hardship.

(2) The 3-foot clearance required by paragraph (b)(1) of this section is not required on the covered portion of a partially opened hatch, nor is it required when lower decks have been filled to beam height with cargo of such a nature as to provide a safe surface upon which employees may work.

(3) For purposes of paragraph (b)(1) of this section, banana or other fitted gratings which are in good condition shall be considered a part of the decking when properly placed within the 3-foot area.

(c) *Trunk hatches and other permanent or semi-permanent structures and spare parts.* When bulkheads, lockers, reefer compartments or large spare parts are within 3 feet of the coaming, grab rails or taut handlines shall be provided for the protection of employees handling beams and hatch covers.

(d) The provisions of this section regarding coaming clearances do not apply to hatches which are opened by hydraulic or other mechanical means, but in all cases in which the 3-foot clearance does not exist, means shall be taken to prevent stowed cargo which is likely to shift from falling into the hold.

### § 1918.42 Beam and pontoon bridles.

Beam and pontoon bridles shall not be used unless they meet the following requirements:

(a) Bridles shall be long enough to easily reach the holes, rings, or other lifting attachments on the beams and pontoons. The bridles shall be of adequate strength and properly maintained, including covering or blunting or protruding ends in wire rope splices.

(b) Bridles for lifting hatch beams shall be equipped with toggles, shackles, or hooks or other devices of such design that they cannot become accidentally dislodged from the beams with which they are used. Hooks other than those herein described may be used only when they are hooked into the standing part of the bridle. Toggles, when used, shall be at least 1 inch longer than twice the longest diameter of the holes into which they are placed.

(c) Bridles used for lifting pontoons and plugs shall have the number of legs required by the design of the pontoon or plug, and all legs shall be used. Where any use of a bridle requires fewer than the number of legs provided, idle legs shall be hung on the hook or ring, or otherwise prevented from swinging free.

(d) At least two legs of all strongback and pontoon bridles shall be equipped with a substantial fiber rope lanyard at least 8 feet long and in good condition. The bridle end of the lanyard may be of chain or wire.

**§ 1918.43 Handling beams and covers.**

Only paragraphs (f)(2), (h), and (i) of this section apply to folding, sliding, or hinged metal hatch covers or to those hatch covers handled by cranes carried for that purpose.

(a)(1) When hatch covers or pontoons are stowed on the weather deck abreast of hatches they shall be arranged in stable piles not closer than 3 feet from the hatch coaming and, when on the working side of the deck, not higher than the coaming, unless they are spread one high between coaming and rail with no space between them and with not less than a 24-inch height of hatch coaming maintained.

(2) When, in the case of pontoons, the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section cannot be met due to the narrowness of the available deck area, pontoons may be stowed more than one high against the coaming, provided that not less than a 24-inch height of hatch coaming is maintained on the working side of the vessel. If pontoons must be stowed closer than 3 feet to and higher than the coaming on the idle side, they shall be secured against movement.

(3) When some, but not all, conventional small weather deck hatch boards or similar covers on seagoing vessels are removed from the beams in a section of a partially opened hatch during cargo handling, cleaning or other operations, those removed shall not be stowed on those left in place within that section.

(b) Beams shall be laid on their sides, or stood on edge close together and lashed: *Provided, however,* That this paragraph shall not apply in cases where beams are of such design that (1) the width of the flange is 50 percent or more of the height of the web and (2) that when a beam is stood upright the flange rests flat on the deck.

(c) Strongbacks, hatch covers and pontoons shall be so placed as not to interfere with a safe walkway from rail to hatch coaming or fore and aft, and so secured that they cannot be tipped over or dragged into hatches or overboard by drafts or gear. Dunnage or other suitable material shall be used under and between tiers of strongbacks and pontoons.

(d) Hatch covers unshipped in an intermediate deck shall be placed at least 3 feet from the coaming or they shall be removed to another deck. Strongbacks unshipped in an intermediate deck shall not be placed closer than 6 inches to the coaming, and if placed closer than 3 feet, they shall be so secured that they cannot be tipped or dragged into a lower compartment. If this is not possible they shall be removed to another deck.

(e) Any beam or pontoon left in place adjacent to a section through which cargo, dunnage, equipment, or any other material is being worked, shall be lashed, locked, or otherwise secured so that it cannot be displaced by accident. All portable, manually handled hatch covers, including those bound together to make a larger cover, shall be removed from any working section.

(f)(1) The roller hatch beam at the edge of the open section of the hatch shall be lashed or pinned back so that it cannot be moved toward the open section.

(2) Rolling, sectional or telescopic hatch covers of barges which open in a fore and aft direction shall be secured